(d) whether Government are aware of reports and public criticism that the conductor, guards in trains with reserved coaches and police guards posted in them do not perform their duties properly with the result the thefts and robberies occur in trains, particularly in the night; and

(e) what steps are being taken to improve the position and make the journey of long distance travellers more convenient and safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Cases of Crime on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the State Government agencies, including Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of State Governments.

The number of cases of thefts of valuables and jewellery etc., the number of culprits apprenhended and prosecuted, the number of cases in which the stolen goods were recovered and returned to their owners are not compiled by the Central Agencies.

(d) Some sueh complaints have been made to the Ministry of Railways.

(e) Ministry of Railways have informed that disciplinary action is taken against the Conductor, TTE|Coach Attendants, where their negligence in performance of duties is proved.

The following steps have been taken by the railways to make the journey of long distance travellers more convenient:—

(i) Introduction of more sleeper and Air Conditioned Coaches with the facility of reservation.

(ii) Supply of bed rolls in AC-2-Tier Coaches on demand;

(iii) Supply of drinking water in reserved coaches;

(iv) Better Catering arrangements; and

(v) Prevention of entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches to the extent possible.

Government Railway Police provides escorts on superfast, mail|express trains according to the local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force also assists the Government Railway Police in this task as and when necessary.

Refugees in J&K

1150. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refugees in Jammu and Kashmir who do not posses the status of permanent residents and are disqualified to own land and houses; to get Government job; to vote in Panchayat and Assembly elections and to get admission in Medical and Engineering Colleges;

(b) what is the status of their children born in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether he has seen a report in the Indian Express of the 2nd April, 1989 to the effect that now Cooperative Societies Bill is being brought there which may result in these refugees parting with their small holdings which are their only means of subsistence and returning of (in-lump-sum) all their short-term and long-term loans provided under IRDP to them; and

(d) what are the details in this regard and the reactions of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As per available information from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 2768 families belonging to different areas now included in West Pakistan and who migrated at the time of partition and settled in different parts of the State of Jammu & Kashmir have not been granted permanent resident certificates and the consequential benefits available to the permanent residents. They, however, have the right to vote for Parliamentary elections.

(b) The children of these persons are also non-permanent residents of the State.

(c) and (d) The Government have seen the news-item. This relates to State legislation.

Gangsters operating as tea-vendors

@1150-A. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some gangsters operating as tea-vendors at Kalyan (Bombay) supplying tea containing sleeping contents to passengers travelling particularly in unreserved compartments are looting valuables from them;

(b) if so, what action has been initiated to safe-guard the travelling public;

(c) if not, whether necessary enquiries would be made to find out the exact position;

(d) whether it is also a fact that memorandum to the above effect has been received by railway officials; and

(e) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the State Government agencies including Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of State Governments.

The Ministry of Railways have informed that on 11.4.1989 Shri Chaturam Tulsi Vishkarma of Thane complained through Uttar Bhartiya Janta Parishad, Thane to the Divisional Railway Manager, Bombay Division, Central Railway, that while he was travelling by Train No. 193 Dn. Mahanagri Express on 23.3.89 from Bombay V.T. to Allahabad, he took tea at Kalyan Railway Station from a vendor and thereafter he was woken up at Allahabad by some of his acquintances. At Allahabad he noticed that his cash had been stolen. The complaint of Shri Chaturam has been sent to DIGP/ Railways Maharashtra, Bombay for necessary action.

Establishing a free port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

@@1150-B. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a free port in the Andaman & Nicobar Island;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be approved;

(c) whether the proposal has been with the Government since long; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delay in taking action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) Government have since decided that in view of the environmental aspects it may not be possible to establish a free port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 911 transferred from the 3rd May, 1989.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 913, transferred from the 3rd May, 1989.